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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/901,974	07/09/2001	Shell Sterling Simpson	10007647-1	7274

7590 01/24/2007
HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER	
SINGH, SATWANT K	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2625	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/24/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/901,974	SIMPSON ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Satwant K. Singh	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 November 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-3,5-9,11-15,17-21 and 23-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-3,5-9,11-15,17-21 and 23-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 09 July 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This office action is in response to the amendment filed on 08 November 2006.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 8, 14, 20, 26, and 32 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-15, 17-21, and 23-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ferlitsch (US 2002/0138558) in view of Tominaga (US 7,148,980).

5. Regarding Claim 1, Ferlitsch teaches a method for providing queue management and production device status in a distributed environment, comprising: placing production data received from a client in a queue (Fig. 2, printing queues 45, 55), the production data including production options (user enters data and/or instructions) (page 3, paragraph [0036]) for a target document identified by the client (user initiates a print job) (page 4, paragraph [0045]); generating a queue interface having user accessible controls for managing production data held in a queue (Fig. 1, input

interfaces 20) (page 3, paragraph [0036]), the production data to be delivered to on of a plurality of production devices (managing and processing print jobs in a networked environment ... one or more printing devices illustrated as printers 60 and 62) (page 4, paragraph [0040]); presenting the queue interface to a client (receiving a broadcast) (page 2, paragraph [0027]); and presenting the status interface to the client (management of print jobs) (page 2, paragraph [0027]).

Ferlitsch fails to teach a method for providing queue management and production device status in a distributed environment, comprising: generating a status interface for the production device selected through the queue interface.

Tominaga teaches a method for providing queue management and production device status in a distributed environment, comprising: generating a status interface for the production device selected through the queue interface (Fig. 22, device status) (col. 14, lines 62-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Ferlitsch with the teaching of Tominaga to allow a user to view the printing status of a particular printing device and to help determine the load on the printing device.

6. Regarding Claim 2, Ferlitsch teaches a method, further comprising managing the production data in the queue in accordance with instructions entered through the queue interface (management of print jobs includes initiating a broadcast) (page 2, paragraph [0027]).

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7. Regarding Claim 3, Ferlitsch teaches a method, wherein the acts of generating the queue and status interfaces comprise generating the queue and status interfaces each in the form of a web page (broadcast may follow one of a variety of formats) (page 4, paragraph [0046]).

8. Regarding Claim 5, Ferlitsch teaches a method, wherein the acts of generating and presenting the status interface for the production device comprise generating and presenting the status interface once the production data is delivered to the production device (once print job has been despoiled) (pages 6 and 7, paragraph [0065]).

9. Regarding Claim 6, Ferlitsch teaches a method, wherein the act of presenting the queue and status interfaces comprise generating and presenting a combined queue/status interface (content of broadcast may include a command field indicating a desire to set/get status of print job, ... and an identification of one or more print jobs) (page 7, paragraph [0066]).

10. Regarding Claim 7, Ferlitsch teaches a method, wherein: the act of generating the queue interface comprises generating the queue interface in the form of a web page; the act of generating the status interface comprises generating the status interface in the form of a web page; and the act of generating the combined queue/status interface comprises generating the combined queue/status interface in the form of a framed web page (broadcast may follow one of a variety of formats) (page 4, paragraph [0046]).

11. Regarding Claim 8, Ferlitsch teaches a method for mediating access to production devices, comprising: acquiring an access request for a particular one of a

plurality of production devices, the access request originating from a client (transmitting a broadcast) (pages 4 and 5, paragraph [0048]); presenting to a client a production interface for the particular production device (Fig. 2, printing queues 45, 55), the interface having user accessible controls for selecting production data identifying a target document (user initiates a print job) (page 4, paragraph [0045]) and one or more production options (user enters data and/or instructions) (page 3, paragraph [0036]); placing in a queue production data received from the client and selected through the production interface, the queue capable of containing production data directed to more than one of the plurality of production devices (managing and processing print jobs in a networked environment ... one or more printing devices illustrated as printers 60 and 62) (page 4, paragraph [0040]); generating a queue interface having user accessible controls for managing production data in the queue (Fig. 1, input interfaces 20); presenting the queue interface to a client (receiving a broadcast) (page 2, paragraph [0027]); and presenting the status interface to the client (management of print jobs) (page 2, paragraph [0027]).

Ferlitsch fails to teach a method for mediating access to production devices, comprising: generating a status interface for a chosen production device selected through the queue interface.

Tominaga teaches teach a method for mediating access to production devices, comprising: generating a status interface for a chosen production device selected through the queue interface (Fig. 22, device status) (col. 14, lines 62-67).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have combined the teachings of Ferlitsch with the teaching of Tominaga to allow a user to view the printing status of a particular printing device and to help determine the load on the printing device.

12. Claims 9 and 21 are rejected for the same reason as claim 3.
13. Claims 11, 17, 23, 31, and 36 are rejected for the same reason as claim 5.
14. Claims 12, 18, 24, 29, and 34 are rejected for the same reason as claim 6.
15. Claims 13, 19, 25, 30, 35, and 37 are rejected for the same reason as claim 7.
16. Claims 14 and 26 are rejected for the same reason as claim 1.
17. Claims 15, 21, 27, and 38 are rejected for the same reason as claim 2.
18. Claims 20 and 32 are rejected for the same reason as claim 8.
19. Regarding Claim 28, Ferlitsch teaches a system, wherein the mediation service includes an interface generator operable to present to the client the status interface for the particular production device selected through the queue interface (broadcast to get the status of a network printing device) (page 7, paragraph 0069]).
20. Claim 33 is rejected for the same reason as claim 28.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Satwant K. Singh whose telephone number is (571) 272-7468. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 8am - 4:30pm.

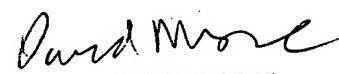
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly A. Williams can be reached on (571) 272-7471. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



sk

Satwant K. Singh
Examiner
Art Unit 2625



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